



FACE Program Fact Sheet

Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation

Department of Health and Family Services * Division of Public Health

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Publication Number PPH 44029

FARMER DIES AFTER HE WAS ENTANGLED IN THE DRIVELINE SHAFT OF A MANURE SPREADER

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program received reports of 91 fatal occupational injuries during 1999. One of those occurred when a farmer became entangled in the driveline shaft of a manure spreader.

This fact sheet describes the incident and requests that farm safety professionals and employers who use agricultural equipment bring the following recommendations to the attention of farm machine/equipment operators and their families.



THE INCIDENT

A 24-year-old male farmer died after becoming entangled in the unguarded rotating driveline shaft of a manure spreader. The spreader was connected to a tractor equipped with a power take-off (PTO), which powered the spreader driveline. The victim was working alone in the barnyard, replacing a bolt on the shaft. He apparently completed this task and was standing on ice-covered soil near the rotating driveline. He either slipped and fell onto the driveline or his clothing was caught and pulled by protruding parts of the rotating shaft. He was spun around the driveshaft, and portions of his clothing were entangled on the driveshaft and torn from his body.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To prevent similar occurrences, farm machine/equipment operators should:

- **disengage the PTO and stop the tractor engine before approaching the machinery to make repairs and adjustments or perform maintenance.**
- **install appropriate guards on PTO-driven machine parts.**
- **avoid wearing clothing that is loose-fitting or has loose ends that could be caught by moving machine parts and lead to entanglement.**

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, in agreement with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational fatalities. The Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program focuses on identifying factors that increase the risk of work-related fatal injuries. The Wisconsin FACE Program helps in the development and use of improved safety measures for preventing fatal work injuries.

PLEASE POST

FACE information is produced and distributed to provide current, relevant education on methods to prevent severe work-related injuries.

If you have comments or questions, please call the FACE Project at 608/266-7298, or write:

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